

## ABSTRACT

Peptides as cell penetrating carriers

5           Compounds of formula (I) or their pharmaceutically or biologically acceptable salts are useful as cell penetrating carriers. According to formula (I), below, Val is L-Val or D-Val; Arg is L-Arg, D-Arg or L-(N-methyl)Arg; Pro is L-Pro or D-Pro; Leu is L-Leu or D-Leu; x is an integer from 1 to 20, preferably 3; L<sub>1</sub> and L<sub>2</sub> are chemical linkers; M<sub>1</sub> and M<sub>2</sub> are  
10          pharmacologically and/or biologically active moieties; and the bond between L<sub>1</sub> and M<sub>1</sub> and the bond between L<sub>2</sub> and M<sub>2</sub> are of the known chemical natures, including covalent and ionic. Compared with other previously described carrier peptides, this new family presents several  
15          advantages including its non-viral origin, its amphipathic character, its solubility in water and the absence of a cytotoxic effect at high concentrations.

